



REMEMBER:

STAY HOME,
SAVE LIVES!

CONTENTS

Zoom General Meeting: The Rivers of Northern California - A Guide's View with Anthony Carruesco	1
Membership	2
Trout Season Delays	2
President's Message	3
Directors & Comm. Chairs	3
Project Healing Waters	4
Membership Renewal	4
Outings	4
SPFF Library	4
SPFF Event Calendar	4
Fun Quiz Time	5
Online With FFI	6
Fishing Report: A Day in Heaven	7
Support Our Sponsors	10

SIERRA PACIFIC



ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 21

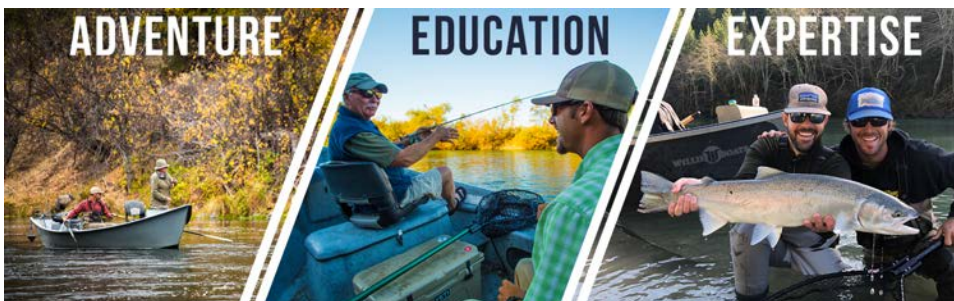
THE RIVERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - A GUIDE'S EYE VIEW

with ANTHONY CARRUESCO

by Marshall Bissett

Before you start planning that trip to Montana or Colorado, take time to marvel at the year round opportunities a mere 8 hour drive up the 5 freeway. Anthony and his guiding team at AC Fly Fishing are ready to show you the Lower and Upper Sacramento, Klamath, Pit and McCloud rivers. The menu includes rainbows, browns and pacific steelhead in the State's most beautiful settings. Based in Redding, Anthony has put together an exceptional team of guides with decades of cumulative experience. The rivers around Redding can be fished from a drift boat or by wading – nymphs, dries, streamers, single hand or Spey – the choices are as varied as the rivers themselves. The small towns in the area offer plenty of diversion for the non-fishing spouse or partner.

Anthony found a passion for fly fishing at a young age. Following that passion to the foothills of gold country and beyond to the vast tundras of Alaska and finally back home to Northern California, where he has turned his passion into a career. Growing up in competitive sports and



Program continued on next page

MAY 21 MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

being a former collegiate athlete, his drive to persevere and always find his clients fish is apparent on the water. A natural leader, Anthony has put together a group of like minded guides with superior work ethics that want nothing more than to see their clients have a great time and be successful on the water. His confidence and positive demeanor is infectious, and a trip with him is certain to make for some of his clients most memorable vacations. When he is not guiding, you'll find him chasing the white ball on manicured fairways or chasing anadromous fish on the coastline. Anthony and his guides are keen to teach – they expect and welcome anglers of all skill levels and can provide all the gear that a newcomer might need. In his words, "The team at AC Fly Fishing has worked extremely hard to build our reputation as the top lower sac fly fishing guides that Northern California has to offer. We take great pride in creating the gold standard when it comes to

guided Fly Fishing here in the North State. With decades of cumulative experience whether it be Trout, Steelhead or Bass, our guides have mastered the best freshwater



fisheries that exist in the Northern California. We consider Redding, CA our base of operation where we are ideally situated in the middle of Northern California's premier freshwater fisheries. Before booking your next fly fishing trip, please read our reviews below and weigh your options carefully. Come and experience a guided fly fishing adventure a cut above the rest.

The AC Flyfishing website (www.acflyfishing.com) is full of testimonials to this amazing and often overlooked fishery along with the latest fishing reports.

Anthony will be presenting his show remotely using the ZOOM platform and will leave time for questions at the end of the evening.

Details for joining the program on ZOOM will be provided on the spff.org web site prior to the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

by Jay Bushore

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. SPFF always welcomes new members. New membership signup is at spff.org/New Member Signup.

SPFF always welcomes new members. Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest new member:

Michael White

TROUT SEASON DELAYS

by Ed Swanson

Before you head out on a fishing trip this spring or summer, be sure to check the local fishing regulations.

Here in California, the start of trout fishing in Inyo, Mono and Alpine counties have been delayed until May 31, 2020, unless the Department of Fish and Wildlife ends the delay earlier.

As of the date of this newsletter, the Wyoming Game & Fish Department will not issue a short-term fishing license to a non-resident, although annual fishing licenses still could be purchased by such persons.

Similarly, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission currently has suspended the sale to non-residents of daily and three-day fishing licenses.

Montana, on the other hand, does not appear to be restricting the sale of non-resident fishing licenses of any length at this time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It's getting harder to figure out what to write, with all the uncertainty we share. When will we be able to fish? When can we get together to enjoy each other's company? Zoom and Facetime and Skype are great but not a substitute for really being together. Despite this, members have been busy, so I'll try to keep you updated.

Marshall and I met on Zoom with the program chairs of the clubs that participate in our meeting schedule. They are working on revising the schedule to



include remote meetings until we can do them live. It's not the same, of course, and it requires that we can all get on Zoom but I'm hopeful that most of us can do so. Even Steve Esgate has figured it out for Board meetings so there is hope!

Biggest kudos go to Michael

Peratis who has set up a virtual fly tying studio at home. He started with the recent students but has now opened it to all of us who want to participate. We will be having teaching sessions at our regular time, Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, via Zoom. You will get an email with instructions if you want to join us. You don't have to download the Zoom app to participate; only the host needs to do that.

Speaking of Board meetings, we have had a few to deal with issues as they come up. One was a project that Debbie Sharpton brought to us to quarterback resuming crayfish removal at Malibu Creek. She secured a grant and we were ready to go until we saw the County contract, which was written for a big organization and had too many provisions we couldn't fulfill. She is going to try to rescue this by using SWC or FFI as the contractor,

in which case we could still volunteer as individuals. Updates to follow.

Cat White continues to work on updating our Facebook page to allow more functions, some of which I understand. She promises a tutorial for the technically challenged.

As I'm sure you've heard, Sierra fishing is still closed. There is hope that we may still be able to go to Hot Creek Ranch as scheduled in June. We'll just have to wait for a decision from the county and the state.

As for me, I've been amusing myself with funny and/or raunchy emails and videos, many from club friends. I've been in touch with some, just to check in and make sure you're all right. Please call or email me if you have any questions or issues to discuss about the Club, or anything else for that matter. I'm not going anywhere

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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SWCFFI Representative.....	Tom Wright
Technical Advisor	Aran Dokovna
Web Master.....	Ren Colantoni
Women's Group.....	Catrina White

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

by David Hoffberg

Volunteers meet at Sepulveda Vet Center twice a month to teach Veterans fly tying and fly casting.

Visit [spff.org/Project Healing Waters](https://spff.org/Project-Healing-Waters) for more information.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

by Jay Bushore

If you haven't renewed yet for 2020, the easiest was to renew is to go on the spff.org website. You can renew and pay by credit card and your membership is updated instantly.

The other way is to mail a check made out to SPFF. Mail it to:

SPFF
PO Box 8403
Van Nuys, CA 91409

OUTINGS

by Jim Fleisher

We mainly fly fish the Eastern Sierras and the Pacific coast. The *Surf Clinic & Outing* is in January; the *Super Bowl Outing* and our *ITFF Graduation* are in Bishop on the weekend of the Super Bowl; *Hot Creek Ranch* weekend is in June; and we especially look forward to the *Getting Started Outing* in the Mammoth Lakes area in July and the *Nymphing Clinic* in October. Visit spff.org/Outings for more details.

SPFF LIBRARY

by Tom Wright

Learn more about fly fishing. Please visit our vast Fly Fishing Library online at [spff.org/Library Catalog](https://spff.org/Library-Catalog).

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

MAY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Board Meeting (remote)	7
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	16
Project Healing Waters Vets	21
Zoom Meeting (Anthony Carruesco, The Rivers of Northern California - A Guide's Eye View)	21

JUNE

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Project Healing Waters Vets	4
Board Meeting	4
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend	5-8
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
Project Healing Waters Vets	18
Dinner Meeting.....	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	20

JULY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Project Healing Waters Vets	2
Board Meeting	2
California Free Fishing Day	4
Dinner Meeting.....	14
Project Healing Waters Vets	16
Getting Started Outing	17-19
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18
SWC FFI Summer Quarterly Meeting.....	18

FUN QUIZ TIME

by Jody Martin

Answers to the quiz in the April newsletter: 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5b, 6c, 7e, 8b, 9b, 10b

Several readers responded to the quiz (on knots) in the April issue of the newsletter and seemed to enjoy it. To help keep readers busy and amused during the quarantine period, I am including a series of quizzes that I prepared for a group of casters (including some SPFF members and some PCC members) who are preparing for the written portion of the FFI Casting Instructor Certification exam. For this issue of the newsletter, I have selected some of the questions on lines, leaders, and backing. These questions are not taken from, or representative of, any actual CI written exam and are just for your enjoyment. Have fun!

Quiz 2: Lines, Leaders, and Backing

1. T/F: All other things being equal, a weight forward fly line is better for casting long distances than is a double-tapered fly line.
2. T/F: The thickest and heaviest section of the fly line is usually referred to as the belly of the line.
3. T/F: A weight-forward fly line has more weight and thickness in the first 30-or-so feet of line, with the remainder of the fly line (the running line) of uniform thickness and weight.
4. T/F: A double-taper fly line is thicker and heavier in the middle section, with both of the end sections (the first and last 10 feet or so of line, for example) composed of thinner diameter line.
5. T/F: Overlining a rod refers to using a heavier weight line than the rod is rated for.
6. T/F: Regularly cleaning your fly line is helpful in reducing friction of the line through the guides and facilitating smooth casts.
7. T/F: One reported advantage of using a fluorocarbon leader or tippet over nylon monofilament is that fluorocarbon stretches more and tends to float better than nylon.
8. T/F: One advantage of having backing on a fly reel is that it minimizes the amount of coiling or "line memory" of the fly line by increasing the diameter on which the fly line is spooled.
9. T/F: A double-taper fly line is always the best choice for distance casting.

10. A reasonable setup for fishing for bonefish might include
 - a. an 8-foot rod rated for 5 weight line, a 4-weight sink-tip fly line, and a 6X leader
 - b. a 9-foot rod rated for 8 weight line, an 8-weight floating fly line, and a 10 lb leader
 - c. a 10-foot rod rated for 12 weight line, a 6-weight sinking fly line, and a 4 lb leader
 - d. a and c but not b
 - e. none of the above
11. The backing on your reel
 - a. adds length to the fly line, which typically is only 90 feet or so
 - b. helps to land big fish by allowing them to run for longer distances
 - c. keeps your reel full, making line retrieval faster and minimizing coiling of the fly line
 - d. is always made of fluorocarbon or nylon monofilament
 - e. all of the above except d
 - f. all of the above except c
12. On a weight-forward fly line, the long, thin part of the fly line between the rear taper and the backing is called
 - a. the belly of the line
 - b. the running line
 - c. the pre-backing
 - d. the leader
 - e. the shooting head
13. In fly fishing, "lining" a rising trout refers to
 - a. casting the line exactly where you want it to go
 - b. casting slightly beyond the trout so that the fly is in line with the fish
 - c. frightening the fish away by allowing it to see or react to the fly line
 - d. casting short of the fish but in line with its feeding zone
 - e. mending the line so that the fly passes over the feeding fish
14. The front portion of a modern weight-forward fly line, from the tip of the fly line back to the end of the rear taper, is often collectively called the
 - a. running line
 - b. backing
 - c. belly of the line
 - d. head
 - e. leader

Answers in the next month's newsletter.

ONLINE WITH FFI

by Leigh Ann Swanson*

Online With FFI

Got a bit of downtime? Over the past few months, we have all had to adjust to the COVID-19 crisis and find new ways to stay connected and cope with all the coronavirus sequestration. One of the best ways to slip away from the stress — even if for a brief moment — is to connect with others online. And thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to stay in the loop, stay engaged and learn new skills.

With this in mind, Fly Fishers International has designed a series of webinars called FFI Online that will bring the FFI to you. These informative webinars will be held live and cover a variety of topics from fly tying to fly casting. We all miss being out in nature, fishing and probably even more seeing our fishing friends, but in the meantime this is a wonderful way to stay connected to the fly fishing community. We hope you will join us!

For more information about the Zoom webinars go to: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>
If you miss them, don't worry they will be recorded for later viewing and remember to check back soon for upcoming events.

Next Up:

Jerry Coviello, Chairman - Fly Tying Group Who We Are & What We Do

The FFI Fly Tying Group within FFI is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, and support of the art of fly tying, supporting both the legacy and future of the craft. The goal is to inspire people to take an interest in fly tying and help them to become more knowledgeable and accomplished tiers. The Fly Tying Group Fly Tying Skills Challenge and the Skills Awards are just two ways to accomplish our mission.

Tuesday, May 5th
8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
[Click to Join!](#)

Jeff Currier Currier's Global Fish Quest

Jeff has been fly fishing the world for over forty years, traveling to more than sixty countries on six continents, and catching more than 400 species of fish on a fly. Wherever he goes, Jeff brings a sense of humor, enthusiasm, approachability, and plenty of experience. Jeff will be delivering a series of presentations over the next few months starting with the **Atlantic Salmon and the Secret Monster Brown Trout of Iceland**.

Wednesday, May 6th
8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
[Click to Join!](#)

Dave Peterson, FFI Conservation Chair Dr. Aaron Adams, Director of Science and Conservation for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

Join Dave & Dr. Adams for a Conservation Conversation. As Director of Science and Conservation, Aaron is responsible for formulating, overseeing, and implementing BTT's science and conservation plan, and applying scientific findings to conservation and management via interactions with resource management agencies and other non-governmental organizations. Aaron has been an author or co-author on more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific publications, has authored three books, and contributed chapters to four books. In addition to his scientific focus, he spends considerable effort translating fish science into angler's terms.

Thursday, May 7th
8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
Thursday, May 8th
[Click to Join!](#)

* A modified version of this appears in the current SWC FFI newsletter

FISHING REPORT: A DAY IN HEAVEN

by Ed Swanson*

A few years back, my wife Leigh Ann and I decided to trade our one-week timeshare in Sedona, Arizona for a week in southern England. As our vacation approached and we were considering what we wanted to do and see, an intriguing thought took hold: perhaps, just perhaps, we could go fly fishing on one of our days there! Having never fished outside the United States, this possibility intrigued us. Leigh Ann contacted her friend, Charles Jardine (good friend of the SPFF and periodic speaker here), and, as luck would have it, he was available on one of the days we would be in England. (And what a day it would turn out to be!)

Charles is a living fly fishing legend – literally, having been so designated by the Fly Fishers International (FFI). He also has received the FFI's International Ambassador Award, is an accredited FFI Master Casting Instructor and is a recipient of SKY TV's "Game Angler of the Year" trophy. Aside from being one of the outstanding fly fishermen in the world, Charles is also a renowned artist and author. In the new millenium he became the Angling Director for the Countryside Alliance, a highly respected conservation organization in the United Kingdom. Charles runs the Alliance's Fishing for Schools, which teaches young people the unique skills of fly fishing and offers them a gateway into the natural world.

The time of our trip to England finally arrived, and we learned from Charles that we would be fishing a "beat" (a stretch of water fished by a designated angler or anglers, with no one else allowed on that beat) on the River Itchen. The River Itchen is a chalk stream that meanders for approximately 28 miles, beginning near the village of Cheriton in Hampshire County, then passing through the city of Winchester before finally emptying into the Southampton Water in Southampton. If you look at a map of England, Southampton is on the southern coast, not quite half way between Dover to the east and Falmouth to the west and directly north of the Isle of Wight.



Many people declare the River Itchen to be the ultimate chalk stream, even superior to the famous River Test, which is only a few miles to the west. Chalk streams are quite unique, and the majority of the world's chalk streams are located within a 50-mile radius of Stockbridge in Hampshire County. Southern England once was under the sea, and, over millions of years, the shells of sea creatures were compressed into chalk, a form of limestone. Chalk is porous and can hold a substantial volume of water. As the slightly acidic rainwater filters through the chalk layers, the acidity is neutralized by the chalk and the water becomes rich in nutrients, as well as crystal or "gin" clear.



The chalk tends to regulate the amount of water supplied to springs, and the temperature of the emerging water is cool and quite stable, regardless of the time of year. Also, the English chalk streams do not experience what we call "run-off," the melting of snow in nearby mountains that can cause rivers to increase in volume, fill with sediment and mud and overflow their banks. (Not many mountains in England!)

A DAY IN HEAVEN (CONT.)

The above characteristics of chalk streams (dependable flow, cool and stable temperature and nutrient-rich) encourage abundant growth of plants, insects and – of great interest to anglers – fish. The chalk streams are the home of sizeable wild salmonid fish species, including brown trout, Atlantic salmon and grayling. On a chalk stream such as the Itchen, a skilled angler can locate a large fish in the clear water, then cast upstream to it and seek to hook and land it.



My excitement and anticipation for fishing on such famous water proved to be fully justified, for this day was the most magical fishing day of my life. (This also was true for Leigh Ann, who has fished since she was about five and is a third-generation fly fishing person.) When we first arrived, I was mesmerized by the beauty of the location. The river is wide, shallow, as smooth as glass and totally clear. We could see large trout and grayling scattered

throughout the river, lying peacefully between lush water plants in wait for the flies we would offer them. The water bottom was solid and mostly flat, composed primarily of flint gravel -- flint occurs commonly in chalk. No silt bottom here!

We had brought only our waders and wading boots with us from California, but Charles provided us with all other equipment necessary for our fishing adventure. After the waders were on and the rods ready for action, Charles took me out on the river to provide instruction on how to properly fish here. Ideally, you search for a large fish to make your prey, then cast the dry fly or nymph slightly above it and hope that the fish finds your offering appetizing.



Shortly after my introduction to English fly fishing by Charles, it was lunchtime, which apparently is a very serious part of fly fishing in England. Charles provided us with homemade soup, bread, cheeses, olives and champagne, all on the porch of the small fishing hut located at the edge of the river for those fishing there. There was no urgency to fishing – it would happen in its own good time -- but for the moment, I believed that the magic of the place required my full appreciation. Therefore, with a full stomach and a heart at peace with the world, I briefly closed my eyes and meditated on all things great and small (*i.e.*, I fell asleep).



Once lunch and contemplation were over, it was on to more fishing. This day was cool and cloudy, but during our lunchtime, activity on the surface of the river had completely evaporated. Consequently, Charles had us switch from dry flies to nymphs. I headed north while Leigh Ann and Charles headed south.

Charles did not provide any form of indicator, so I found myself casting upstream and then slowly bringing in the line while trying to feel any unusual tug. I must admit that, although I occasionally would see a monster fish somewhere ahead of me, far too often the

fish I saw were scurrying away. Eventually I decided to fish the water instead of targeting a particular fish.

A DAY IN HEAVEN (CONT.)

This change in approach did the trick, and before dusk I had caught several beautiful grayling, the first of this species I had ever hooked and brought to hand. (As an aside, trying to take a photo of a caught fish when alone, in the middle of the river, and without a net is a tricky proposition.)

Grayling are a member of the salmon family with unique characteristics such as a sail-like dorsal fin, a small mouth and a beautiful, silver gray color. Grayling often are known, and deservedly so in my opinion, as the “ladies of the stream.”



While I was enjoying the excitement of my first grayling catches, Leigh Ann was busy catching some very respectable brown trout and grayling, both on dry flies and nymphs. These were her first grayling as well.



At times during the afternoon, we were visited by a flock of swans that majestically paraded up and down this section of the river. They were beautiful to look at, but the fish did not appreciate the disturbance of the water. The pheasant I encountered, on the other hand, stayed on land where it could not disrupt fishing, and consequently proved to be a more welcome guest.

At one point, Charles commented that, in his mind, the River Itchen is the closest thing to heaven on earth. I agree with him. The Itchen, at least on this day, was a magical place of peace and beauty that was truly heavenly. That word doesn't nearly do justice to the wonder and delight of the day, but I don't know how to better express it.



SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers below. Their promotion of our club and its activities thorough the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

Fishermen's Spot

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Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Gangadin Restaurant

12067 Ventura Place
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(818) 509-0722

Orvis

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Pasadena, CA 91101
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Pat Jaeger

Eastern Sierra Guide Service
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Bishop, CA 93514
760.872.7770

Patagonia-Ventura

Great Pacific Iron Works
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Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

Patagonia-Pasadena

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Pasadena, CA 91103
626.795.0319

Patagonia Santa Monica

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Santa Monica, CA 90401
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